

Chapter 8: Glossary

BCMA Lingo

The alphabetical listings, in this chapter, are designed to familiarize you with the many acronyms and terms used within this manual and the BCMA software.

Example: Alphabetical Listing of BCMA Acronyms and Terms

ACRONYM/TERM	DEFINITION
Active	When a medication has been finished <i>and</i> verified, it becomes “active,” and displays on the VDL under the related Medication Tab. A nurse can then administer the medication to the patient. Under the IV Medication Tab, this information is listed in the Status column.
Additive	A drug added in small amounts to an IV solution to improve, strengthen, or otherwise alter it for parenteral administration.
Administration History Report	A report in CPRS that lists the date, time, and orderable item of a medication highlighted on the CPRS Meds Tab. This report is called “Medication History Report” in BCMA.
Administration Schedule File	Also called “File #51.1,” this file contains administration schedule names and standard dosage administration times. The name is a common abbreviation for an administration schedule type (e.g., QID, Q4H). The administration time is entered in military time format, with each time separated from the next by a dash. Times are listed in ascending order.
Administration Times Report	A report that lists a patient’s medications by the scheduled administration time (from the earliest to the latest).
ADR	Adverse Drug Reaction. See definition under “Adverse Drug Reaction.”
Adverse Drug Reaction	Also called “ADR,” any response to a drug which is noxious and unintended, and which occurs at doses normally used in humans for treatment, diagnosis, or therapy of a disease, or for modifying physiological functions, including toxicity caused by overdose, drug interaction, drug abuse, drug withdrawal, significant failure of expected action, food-drug interaction, or allergy.
Allergy	A type of Adverse Drug Reaction (ADR) that involves a hypersensitivity (i.e., shortness of breath, hives) to a specific substance (i.e., food, drug, chemical).
Audits	The process that tracks the activities of nurses administering medications, by recording selected types of events in the patient’s Medication Log.
Available	This status for an IV bag indicates that the Pharmacy has printed a bag label, and the bag is either being prepared, has been prepared, or has been delivered to the ward for administration. Multiple available bags may display for any specific IV order at any given point in time.

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ACRONYM/TERM	DEFINITION
BCMA	Bar Code Medication Administration. A VISTA software application used in VA medical centers for validating patient information and medications against active medication orders before being administered to a patient.
BCMA Clinical Reminders	A marquee located in the lower, right-hand corner of the VDL that identifies PRN medication orders needing effectiveness documentation. The setting is based on the "PRN Documentation" site parameter, and applies to current admissions or to the site parameter timeframe (whichever is greater). A mouse-over list displays when the pointer is placed over the PRN Effectiveness Activity, or a full list is available by double clicking on the Activity.
CHUI	Character-based User Interface.
Clinician	Nursing personnel who administer active medication orders to patients on a ward. In a VA medical center, a number of teams may be assigned to take care of one ward, with specific rooms and beds assigned to each team.
Completed	This status for an IV bag indicates that the infusion has been completed, and the bag is being taken down or replaced with a new bag. No additional actions may be taken on a bag marked as "Completed," other than to enter comments.
Continuous Order	A medication given continuously to a patient for the life of the order, as defined by the order Start and Stop Date/Time.
CPRS	Computerized Patient Record System. A VISTA software application that allows users to enter patient orders into different software packages from a single application. All pending orders that appear in the Unit Dose and IV packages are initially entered through the CPRS package. Clinicians, managers, quality assurance staff, and researchers use this integrated record system.
CPRS Med Order Button	Also called the "Hot Button," a direct link to CPRS for electronically ordering, documenting, reviewing and signing verbal- and phone-type STAT and NOW medication orders that a clinician has already administered to patients. This feature is particularly useful in ICU-type environments, as it helps to streamline the workflow in such a busy setting.
Dispensed Drug	A drug whose name has the strength associated with it (e.g., Acetaminophen 325 mg). The name without the strength is called the "Orderable Item Name."
Due List Report	A report that provides detailed information about active <i>and</i> future Unit Dose and IV medication orders that are "due" for administering to a patient during a time frame that you specify within a 24-hour period.

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ACRONYM/TERM	DEFINITION
Electronic Signature Code	Authorizes that you are the user logged in to BCMA. This code is a site parameter setting in GUI BCMA.
Finish	To verify a medication order by checking the completed “contents” against the actual order submitted by a Provider.
Frequency	Intervals between medication doses administered to a patient.
Given	When a medication is administered to a patient, it is considered to be “Given” and marked as such (with a “G”) in the Status column of the VDL.
GUI	Graphical User Interface. The type of interface chosen for BCMA.
Held	When a medication is being administered, but <i>not</i> actually taken by a patient, it is considered to be “Held” and marked as such (with an “H”) in the Status column of the VDL. Reasons might include the patient being temporarily off the ward, or if the patient refuses to take the medication. You can select and mark multiple medications as Held on the VDL using the Right Click drop-down menu. In the case of IV bags, this status indicates that the dose was Held. The only actions available for this type of IV bag are to mark the bag as Infusing or Refused, or to submit a Missing Dose Request to the Pharmacy.
Hold	To display a medication order grayed out on the VDL until its Start Date/Time. Some medical centers require that a nurse mark these order types as “Held,” although it is <i>not</i> necessary that they do so.
Hospital-supplied Self Medication	Also called “HSM,” a medication <i>supplied</i> to a patient by a VA medical center’s Pharmacy, but <i>administered</i> by a patient.
HSM	Hospital-supplied Self Medication. A medication <i>supplied</i> to a patient by a medical center’s Pharmacy, but <i>administered</i> by a patient.
IEN	Internal Entry Number. The internal entry drug number (or drug name) entered by Pharmacy personnel into the Inpatient Medications V. 5.0 package to identify Unit Dose and IV medications.
Inactive Date	The date that a medication order is no longer active and cannot be administered to a patient.
Infusing	This status, for an IV bag, indicates that the bag is actively being infused. A nurse can enter a comment by right clicking on the bag. If an IV bag is scanned, the only allowable actions are to mark the IV bag as Stopped or Completed.
Infusion Rate	The flow rate, or frequency, at which medication (fluid) in an IV Bag is given to a patient.
Internal Entry Number	Also called “IEN,” the internal entry drug number (or drug name) entered by the Pharmacy into the Inpatient Medications V. 5.0 package.

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ACRONYM/TERM	DEFINITION
IV	A medication given intravenously (within a vein) to a patient from an IV Bag. IV types include Admixture, Chemotherapy, Hyperal, Piggyback, and Syringe.
IVP	Also called "IV Push," a Unit Dose order with a Medication Route of "IVP" or "IV PUSH."
IVPB	Also called "IV Piggyback," an IV order with an IV type of Piggyback.
IV Bag Chronology	On the IV Medication Tab, the area of the VDL that displays the components (with related icons) for all displayable IV bags or Ward Stock bags.
IV Bag Detail	Provides detailed information about the actions taken on the IV bag or Ward Stock bag identifier currently highlighted in the IV Bag Chronology display area such as the date/time, clinician, action, and comments.
Last Action Column	Based on the orderable item (<i>not</i> the medication), to identify to the nurse when the patient received any dose of the active medication displayed.
MAH	Medication Administration History. A patient report that lists a clinician's name and initials, and the exact time that an action was taken on an order (in a conventional MAR format). Each order is listed alphabetically by the orderable item. The Date column lists three asterisks (***) if a medication was Discontinued.
MAR	Medication Administration Record. The traditional, handwritten record used for noting when a patient received a medication. BCMA replaces this record with an MAH.
Means Test	A test performed by a ward clerk each year to review and update a veteran's financial information and their "means" for paying their hospital bill.
Medication Administration History Report	Also called "MAH," a patient report that lists a clinician's name and initials, and the exact time that an action was taken on an order (in a conventional MAR format). Each order is listed alphabetically by the orderable item. The Date column lists three asterisks (***) if a medication was Discontinued.
Medication History Report	A report in BCMA that lists the date, time, and orderable item of a medication highlighted on the VDL. This report is called "Administration History Report" in CPRS.
Medication Log Report	Also called "Med Log," a report that lists every action taken on a medication order within a specified 24-hour period. You can choose to include Comments and Audits performed on the patient's medication orders.
Medication Order Display Area	The area of the VDL that displays active medication orders, scheduled for administration, according to the Virtual Due List Parameters and Schedule Types selected.

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ACRONYM/TERM	DEFINITION
Medication Route	Also called "Route" or "Med Route," the method by which a patient receives medication (i.e., PO, IV, IM, ID, SQ, and SC). Each VA medical center determines routes and associated abbreviations, which cannot exceed five characters in length. Otherwise they will <i>not</i> fit on bar code labels and the MAH.
Medication Tab	Used to separate and view a type of active medication order (i.e., Unit Dose IV Push, IV Piggyback, and large-volume IVs) that needs to be administered to a patient. The Tab under which an order displays depends on how it was entered. An "alert light" on a Tab turns GREEN <i>only</i> when a patient has active medication orders associated to them.
Missing Dose	A medication dose considered "Missing." BCMA automatically marks this order type (with an "M") in the Status column of the VDL after you submit a Missing Dose Request to the Pharmacy. If an IV bag displayed in the IV Bag Chronology display area of the VDL is <i>not</i> available for administration, you may mark the IV bag as a "Missing Dose" using the Missing Dose button or by right clicking the IV bag and selecting the Missing Dose command in the Right Click drop-down menu.
Missed Medications Report	A report that lists information about Continuous and One-Time Unit Dose and IV Piggyback medications that were <i>not</i> administered to a patient.
National Drug Code	Also called "NDC," the number assigned by a manufacturer to each item/medication administered to a patient.
NDC	National Drug Code. The number assigned by a manufacturer to each item/medication administered to a patient.
Not Given	The status that a scanned medication marked as "Given," but <i>not</i> actually taken by a patient, is changed to on the VDL. The administration will display on the VDL as it appeared <i>before</i> it was marked as "Given." BCMA notes the status change only in the Audit Trail section of the Medication Log (<i>not</i> on the VDL).
NOW Order	A medication order given ASAP to a patient, entered as a One-Time order by Providers and Pharmacists. This order type displays for a fixed length of time on the VDL, as defined by the order Start and Stop Date/Time.
On-Call Order	A specific order or action dependent upon another order or action taking place before it is carried out. For example, "Cefazolin 1gm IVPB On Call to Operating Room." Since it may be unknown when the patient will be taken to the operating room, the administration of the On-Call Cefazolin is dependent upon that event.
One-Time Order	A medication order given one time to a patient such as a STAT or a NOW order. This order type displays for a fixed length of time on the VDL, as defined by the order Start and Stop Date/Time.

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ACRONYM/TERM	DEFINITION
Orderable Item	A drug whose name does NOT have the strength associated with it (e.g., Acetaminophen 325 mg). The name with a strength is called the "Dispensed Drug Name."
PACU	Post Anesthesia Care Unit.
Patient Transfer Notification	A message that displays when a patient's record is opened or the Unit Dose or IVP/IVPB Medication Tab is viewed for the first time. It indicates that the patient has had a movement type (usually a transfer) within the site-definable parameter, and the last action for the medication occurred before the movement, but still within the defined timeframe.
Pending Order	An order entered by a Provider through CPRS without Pharmacy personnel finishing (verifying) the order. Once Pharmacy finishes the order, it becomes active and displays on the VDL.
PRN Effectiveness List Report	A report that lists PRN medications administered to a patient that needs Effectiveness comments.
PRN Order	The Latin abbreviation for Pro Re Nata . A medication dosage given to a patient on an "as needed" basis.
Provider	Another name for the "Physician" involved in the prescription of a medication (Unit Dose or IV) to a patient.
PSB CPRS MED BUTTON	The name of the security "key" that must be assigned to nurses who document verbal- and phone-type STAT and NOW medication orders using the CPRS Med Order Button on the BCMA VDL.
PSB INSTRUCTOR	The name of the security "key" that must be assigned to nursing instructors, supervising nursing students, so they can access user options within BCMA V. 2.0.
PSB MANAGER	The name of the security "key" that must be assigned to managers so they can access the PSB Manager options within BCMA V. 2.0.
PSB STUDENT	The name of the security "key" that must be assigned to nursing students, supervised by nursing instructors, so they can access user options with BCMA V. 2.0. This key requires that a nursing instructor sign on to BCMA V. 2.0.
Quick Code	An abbreviation of a generic drug name used for an IV order to speed up such tasks as Order Entry and Lookup. The code can be one to ten characters in length. It is one of the three drug fields used to locate a drug. PRINT NAME and SYNONYM are the other two.
Refused	The status for an IV bag or Unit Dose to indicate that the patient refused to take the dose.
Removed	The status for a patch (i.e., Nitroglycerin, Fentanyl, or Nicotine) to indicate that it has been removed from a patient. Once removed, the letters "RM" (for "Removed") display in the Status column of the VDL.

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ACRONYM/TERM	DEFINITION
Schedule	The frequency at which a medication is administered to a patient. For example, QID, QD, QAM, Q4H.
Schedule Type	Identifies the type of schedule (i.e., Continuous, PRN, On-Call, and One-Time) for the medication being administered to a patient.
Schedule Type Indicator	A GREEN "alert light" indicates that a medication order exists for the Schedule Type selected within the respective start/stop date and time selected on the BCMA VDL. A GRAY "alert light" indicates that a medication order does NOT exist for the Schedule Type selected. This feature is not applicable to the IV Medication Tab.
Security Keys	Used to access specific options within BCMA that are otherwise "locked" without the security key. Only users designated as "Holders" may access these options.
SM	Self Medication. A medication supplied <i>and</i> administered by a patient.
Solution	A homogeneous mixture of two or more substances. For IVs, these would be liquids.
Standard Schedule	The standard administration schedule, stored in the Administration Schedule File (#51.1), used by a VA medical center for administering medications to patients.
Start Date/Time	The date and time that a medication is scheduled for administration to a patient.
STAT Order	A medication order given immediately to a patient, entered as a One-Time order by Providers and Pharmacists. This order type displays for a fixed length of time on the VDL, as defined by the order Start and Stop Date/Time.
Status	A code used to inform a clinician about the condition or progress of a medication order. For Unit Dose and IVP/IVPB orders, status codes include G=Given, H=Held, R=Refused, M=Missing, and RM=Removed (patch removal only). For IV orders, status codes include I=Infusing, H=Held, R=Refused, S=Stopped, C=Completed, and M=Missing.
Status Bar	Includes the name of the clinician(s) administering medications, plus the name of the hospital and division/facility, and the time that the current VDL was accessed.
Stop Date/Time	The date and time that a medication order will expire, and should no longer be administered to a patient.
Stopped	This status, for an IV bag, indicates that the IV bag was scanned as Infusing, but was then stopped by a nurse. An IV bag may be stopped and restarted for a variety of reasons. The only actions allowed on a "Stopped" IV bag is to mark the bag as Infusing, Completed, Held, or Refused.
Strength	The degree of concentration, distillation, or saturation of a medication.

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Example: Alphabetical Listing of BCMA Acronyms and Terms

ACRONYM/TERM	DEFINITION
Unique Identifier Number	The number generated for IV and IV Piggyback medications when the Pharmacy prints a bar code label for an IV bag. It helps to identify which IVs have been manufactured by the Pharmacy. For IV Piggyback orders, use the Available Bags command in the Right Click drop-down menu. For IV orders, locate it in the IV Bag Chronology display area of the VDL.
Unit Dose	A medication given to a patient, such as tablets, one dose at a time. If a patient receives more than one tablet, the clinician must document the number of dosages and the administration times on the VDL.
Verify	When a nurse or a Pharmacist confirms that a medication order is accurate and complete, according to the information supplied by the Provider.
VDL	Virtual Due List. An on-line “list” used by clinicians when administering active medication orders (i.e., Unit Dose, IV Push, IV Piggyback, and large-volume IVs) to a patient. This is the Main Screen in BCMA.
Virtual Due List	Also called “VDL,” an on-line list used by clinicians when administering active medication orders to a patient. This is the Main Screen in BCMA.
Ward Stock	Unit Dose and IV medications that are “stocked” on an ongoing basis on wards and patient care areas. They are packaged in a ready-to-use form or compounded by the medication administrator.